

REMARKS

Support for new claims 19 and 20 can be found, for example, in original claim 5. Support for new claim 21, can be found in original claim 2, for example. Support for new claim 22, can be found in original claim 3, for example. Support for new claim 23, can be found in original claim 6, for example.

Election Response

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, group II, claims 14-16 drawn to a process and use of etching medium in solar cells.

All the claims in the application depend from claim 1 and thus involve related subject matter. A search would therefore comprise overlapping subject matter, and it would not be an undue burden on the examiner to carry out a search. "If search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner *must* examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct invention." (Emphasis added.) M.P.E.P. 803.

Furthermore, at page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Miyashita (US 2001/0029156) teaches an etching medium that is a thickened alkaline liquid for etching of silicon surfaces and layers. Miyashita discloses a particle containing "polishing material" used in polishing a semiconductor wafer in the CMP process. The composition is applied all over the surface of the wafer and the viscosity is of minor importance.

In this particular case, it is clear that unity of invention exists, and that therefore restriction is improper. The Patent Office can not refuse to examine subject matter that an applicant regards as his invention.

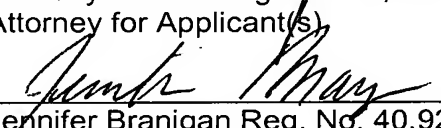
Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due with this response, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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